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CENTRAL FAX CENTER  
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Serial No. 10/057,757

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the present application.

What is claimed is:

**1-2. (canceled)**

**3. (previously presented)** A method carried out in an information processing system comprising:

reading an original version of management information, stored on a data storage device to be verified, and a first and a second encrypted version of the management information, the management information identifying the data storage device;

decrypting the first and the second encrypted version of the management information, the first and the second encrypted versions of the management information system being encrypted by different encryption keys; and

comparing the original version of the management information and the respective first and second decrypted versions of the management information,

wherein the data storage device subjected to verification is determined as valid when the comparison result indicates that the original version of the management information and both the respective first and second decrypted management information are in a predetermined relationship with each other.

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**4. (original)** A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the encrypted version of the management information is encrypted with an encryption scheme using secret key information and the decryption is performed with that secret key information.

**5. (previously presented)** A system for verifying the validity of a data storage device having a first storage area for storing an original version of management information and a second and a third storage area for storing a respective first and second encrypted version of the management information, said system comprising:

a controlling unit adapted to read the original version of the management information and the first and second encrypted version of the management information out of the data storage device and control decryption of the first and second encrypted version of the management information, the first and the second encrypted versions of the management information system being encrypted by different encryption keys; and

a comparing unit adapted to determine whether the original version of the management information and both the respective first and second decrypted management information are in a predetermined relationship with each other and validate the data storage device when the determination result is affirmative;

wherein the management information identifies the data storage device.

**6-11. (canceled)**

**12. (previously presented)** A computer program for use in making an information processing system carry out the jobs of:

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reading an original version of management information and a first and a second encrypted version of the management information out of a data storage device to be verified, the management information identifying the data storage device;

decrypting the first and the second encrypted version of the management information the first and the second encrypted versions of the management information system being encrypted by different encryption keys;

comparing the read original version of the management information and the respective first and second decrypted management information; and

validating the verified data storage device when the comparison result indicates that the read original version of the management information and both of the respective first and second decrypted management information are in a predetermined relationship with each other.

**13-14. (canceled)**

**15. (previously presented)** A computer-readable data storage device having the computer program as claimed in claim 12 stored thereon.

**16. (canceled)**